

GLYCOPROTEINS HAVING LIPID MOBILISING PROPERTIES AND THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS THEREOF

A biologically active lipid mobilising agent for use in therapy is disclosed which has the properties and characteristics of a Zn- α_2 -glycoprotein, or of a fragment thereof having an apparent molecular mass M_r greater than 6.0 kDa as determined by gel exclusion chromatography. Methods of isolation and purification from biological material are also disclosed together with uses of the material for making up pharmaceutical compositions, especially pharmaceutical compositions useful for treating mammals to achieve weight reduction or for controlling obesity. In addition, uses of the material for developing diagnostic agents and for identifying inhibitors of lipolytic activity for therapeutic purposes are disclosed.